

COUNTRY

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TOPIC

Polish Troops in Koeslin.

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EVALUATION

DATE OF CO

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REFERENCES

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. Prior to March 1951, the former infantry barracks on the south side of Rogzower Allee, east of the town of Koeslin (O55/M45), was occupied by a Polish officer candidate school. The installation was bounded by ul. Stalina, formerly General Litzmann Strasse, in the west, and Artillery Street in the south. It consisted of the old northern section and the new southern section, which included about 12 large barracks buildings in two rows with their longitudinal sides fronting ul. Stalina. The installation included long storehouses and stables in the eastern section; three other storehouses forming a right angle in the south-eastern section; and the former officers' mess on the southern edge. Prior to 1948, the installation was occupied by a Soviet tank unit, including a repair-shop unit which moved to Stolp (P 55/N 08) in 1948. [REDACTED] the unit was stationed in Stolp up to 1951, when it moved to Liegnitz (O 52/B 82). After 1948, tanks were no longer observed in the town. Officer candidates occupied the installation to capacity. Instruction officers were also accommodated in the former officers' mess. The officer candidates wore red epaulets and two or three stripes on their sleeves, long dark-blue trousers with wide red stripes and khaki visor-type service caps with red bands and Polish-eagle emblems. They carried only small arms when marching out of the installation. They were trained in the barracks yard and in the area southeast of the installation.¹
2. Prior to March 1951, the former artillery barracks south of the infantry barracks and on the south side of Artillery Street were occupied by a Polish horse-drawn light artillery unit. The installation included five four-story buildings, fronting Artillery Street, and an unidentified number of stables, gun sheds and workshops in the southern section. The soldiers of the unit wore caps with red bands with their dress uniforms. Guns observed at the installation included light weapons of 70 to 80-mm with limbers drawn by four-horse teams, and heavier guns drawn by six-horse teams. The light weapons had iron wheels and barrels with muzzle brakes. Up to eight guns of this model were observed on the training ground southeast of the installation. No motor vehicles were observed.²

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3. Another barracks installation occupied by Polish troops prior to March 1951 was located about 1 km northwest of the town, on the southwest side of Buchwald Street leading toward Kolberg (O 55/M 14). It included a large four-story building with wings that paralleled the building. No details on the occupation of the installation were available. After the war, a cantonment was set up northwest of the installation, on the same side of the road. [REDACTED]

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4. The former Nationalpolitische Erziehungsanstalt (Nazi Youth School) on the northeastern perimeter of the town, on the southeast side of former Reichs Strasse (National Highway) No 2 leading to Zanow (O 55/M 55), was occupied by Soviet soldiers prior to 1948. Its use after 1948 was not known. It was an extremely modern installation including billets and school buildings, gymnasiums, a swimming pool and kitchens. The installation included only one old building, which formerly housed a teachers' college. The former Kaiser Wilhelm Hospital, which adjoined the installation to the east, served as a civilian hospital prior to 1951. 3
5. Prior to early 1951, members of a WOP (Border Guard) unit located in unidentified billets were observed in the town. 4
6. The MO (Politia) district office was located on the south side of Neue Tor Strasse, west of the marked-place.
7. Prior to March 1951, the former German army ration supply depot on the southwestern perimeter of the town, on the southeast side of the road to Neuklenz (O 55/M 44) was controlled by the government and was utilized to store grain supplied from nationalized estates. 5

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1. Comment. [REDACTED] a Polish unit consisting of very young soldiers occupied this installation. According to another report, the unit was not equipped with heavy weapons. It is fairly definitely believed that this unit is identical to the officer candidate school mentioned in the present report. 25X1A
2. Comment. A previous report stated that this barracks installation was occupied, in December 1950, by the same unit, namely the officer candidate school. As the 8th Mecz Div, which was formerly stationed in Lodz, is believed to be located in the Koeslin area, it appears strange that a horse-drawn artillery unit should be stationed there. 25X1A
3. Comment. A previous report of July 1950 stated that an officer candidate school was located in this installation. However, it is undetermined whether this school is identical to the officer candidate school carried in the former infantry barracks. 25X1A
4. Comment. The 12th WOP (Border Guard) Brigade including a training battalion is carried in Koeslin. 25X1A
5. Comment. According to a previous report, the entire installation had been turned over by the Soviets to the Poles in November 1950.

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